

Jackson Street Baptist in Tupelo. He was an avid collector of baseball cards and coins.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Diana Lynn; sons, Jeffery Lane and Michael Allen; and ten grandchildren.

I am grateful for the impact of men like Mr. Seals, and I commend him for his lifetime of service to family, state, and country.

HONORING COLONEL GREGORY
MICHEL

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Gregory Michel for his years of service to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Col. Michel has led our state's emergency agency since 2018—and what a fine job he has done.

Colonel Gregory Michel retired from the military in 2017 after nearly 30 years of service to the Army. He began his career with his command at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, MS where he served as Installation Commander.

Colonel Michel is a Veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom. Col. Michel's military decorations include the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Col. Michel has remained dedicated to our state in his many roles, and during his time at MEMA was responsible for declaring more than nine Presidential Disaster Declarations, a critical piece of post-hurricane recovery efforts.

Although retirement from MEMA might be different given the pandemic, I am confident the impact Col. Michel left on our state and at MEMA will be a lasting one. I want to thank Colonel Michel for his service to our country and to the state of Mississippi.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF FOSTER CITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Foster City on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of its incorporation as a city on April 27, 1971. This is a young city with a long history, and it all began as a salt pond.

Leslie Salt Company sold its land, then known as Brewer's Island, to developer T. Jack Foster and a partner in 1958. The vision for the city was to develop a community that was more aesthetically pleasing, following an orderly development plan with neighborhoods that aged better over time. 218 surface acres of lagoons containing 425 million gallons of water were ultimately created within 4 square miles of land. Financing through bonds issued in the 1960's, totaling \$88.5 million, drove the creation of Foster City. Adjusted for inflation, this sum would be the equivalent of \$738 million in 2021 terms.

Now 33,000 residents inhabit this glistening four square mile jewel adjacent to San Fran-

cisco Bay. Residents love their parks and waterways. There are 24 parks and tennis courts, basketball fields, soccer fields, trails, picnic areas and an unlimited number of smiles from residents. Throughout America, this past year has been challenging because we must either shelter in place or stay distant from one another when outside. Foster City's architecture makes it simple to maintain your mental health.

You can walk a quiet street, go to a trail or park, ride a bike on flat ground throughout the city, and enjoy getting dunked in the bay when your kite sailing skills are overcome by Mother Nature. It's big news in Foster City when jellyfish show up in the lagoons. These marvelous creatures pose special challenges, but modern engineering and a bit of wisdom have kept them on the bay side of the levee system during most years. On occasion, one can even spot the descendants of Brewer Island's once most energetic and prolific of species: jack-rabbits. There's a lot for a rabbit to love about the city, filled as it is by such greenery that it would make Peter Rabbit swap Mr. McGregor's garden for a city block in Foster City.

This wonderful community loves its children. In normal times, youth sports are the center of community life for hundreds of families. Among the city's many wonderful attributes is that its inhabitants come from the four corners of the earth. If you are raised in Foster City and join a youth soccer league, you'd better be prepared for parents who grew up with a soccer ball in every closet. Coupled with all of the foreign languages heard on the streets and what you have is a city that celebrates global diversity and brings people together through sports and cultural programs that highlight the kindness of the human spirit. Global powerhouses Gilead Sciences and Visa International, companies that need to recruit talent globally, call Foster City home in part because it is so welcoming.

Madam Speaker, I close with this other special note about Foster City. In 2003, the city redeveloped its original park and renamed it after the late Congressman Leo J. Ryan. As we know, Congressman Ryan served the people of Foster City and his district until his assassination on November 18, 1978. The people of Foster City did not have to rename a park in memory of a man who died a quarter century earlier, but they did. This tells you something about the character of civic leadership in this community. These good people realized then, and now, that public service is an honorable endeavor, and that those who seek justice and pay the heaviest price because of that most important of goals have died in service to every constituent, past, present and future. Foster City does not forget. It does not forget to enjoy life and it does not forget to honor life.

In the decades to come, on the waterways and the roads, within the council chambers and city offices, and amongst the general populace, this community will thrive. Even when jellyfish bloom in the lagoons, the optimism that sparked the creation of this town never fades. Let us all wish Foster City and its residents another 50 years of friendship and progress.

IN HONOR OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COMMANDER HOUSSAIN "SAM" SAREINI, ONE OF THE FIRST MUSLIM-AMERICAN NAVAL COMMANDERS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commander Houssain "Sam" Sareini of Dearborn, Michigan. His accomplishments and service to our nation are worthy of commendation.

As a young man with an interest in government service, Commander Sareini enlisted in the United States Navy when he was 18 years old. During his first tour of duty, he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and went on to study Biochemistry at Iowa State University.

Commander Sareini has served in the United States Navy for nearly 27 years in a variety of roles all over the globe. He has served as Air Defense Commander, Reactor Laboratories Division Officer, Chemistry and Radiological Controls Principal Assistant, Radiation Health Officer, Senior Watch Officer, and now Commanding Officer for the USS *Nitze*. A dedicated servicemember, he has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

On April 9, 2021 at a ceremony in Portsmouth, Virginia, Commander Sareini took command of the USS *Nitze*, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer. He is one of the first ever Muslim-Americans to command his own naval ship. His Islamic faith tells him to "live for others" and military service allows him to do just that. A dedicated leader and an inspiration to all, Commander Sareini embodies the unofficial Navy motto of "Not self, but country."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Houssain "Sam" Sareini for his invaluable service to this nation. I join with Commander Sareini's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his continued exemplary service to this country and congratulate him on this terrific achievement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF J.T.
BYRD, JR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of J.T. Byrd, Jr. who passed away on December 8th at the age of 97. I send my condolences and prayers to Mr. Byrd's family and friends.

Born and raised in Mississippi, he served as Pastor of Eastlawn Baptist Church, Bethany Baptist Church and Oneal Road Baptist Church. Mr. Byrd was loved and respected by his church members, family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

I had the distinct honor of meeting Mr. Byrd and honoring his service to our country during an Honor Flight to the nation's capitol.